

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. By this Amendment, the Abstract and claims 1-3 and 5-8 are amended, and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2007/0056305 to Eom et al., co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/576,580 (hereinafter, “the ‘580 application”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amendments to independent claim 1 obviate this rejection. Accordingly, it should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Liang, U.S. Patent No. 3,666,169. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, an outdoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the outdoor heat exchanger that generates a centrifugal force to blow the outdoor air, wherein the outdoor centrifugal fan comprises a hub connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades formed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, and a supporting ring mounted between and

supporting the plurality of blades. Liang does not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Rather, Liang discloses an air conditioner unit having two cross flow blowers 19, 20. Each cross flow blowers of Liang has a configuration that air is sucked in through one side thereof in a circumferential direction, and the sucked air is discharged through another side thereof in a circumferential direction. Further, Liang does not disclose or suggest a supporting ring mounted between and supporting the plurality of blades.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Liang should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kang et al. (hereinafter “Kang”), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0035021. Claim 4 has been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, an outdoor centrifugal fan positioned opposite to the outdoor heat exchanger that generates a centrifugal force to blow the outdoor air, wherein the outdoor centrifugal fan comprises a hub connected to a driving motor by a rotational shaft, a plurality of blades formed at an outer side of the hub in a circumferential direction with the same interval therebetween, and a supporting ring mounted between and supporting the plurality of blades. Kang does not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Rather, Kang discloses an air conditioner unit having an outdoor axial fan 70. That is, the outdoor axial fan of Kang has a configuration such that air is sucked in an axial line direction of the outdoor axial fan, and the sucked air is discharged in an axial line direction of the outdoor axial fan. However, with the claimed outdoor centrifugal fan of independent claim 1 comprising a hub, a plurality of blades, and a supporting ring, air is sucked in an axial line direction of the hub, and the sucked air is discharged in a radial direction of the hub. Further, Kang does not disclose or suggest a supporting ring mounted between and supporting the plurality of blades.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Kang should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-3 and 5-8 are allowable over Kang at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

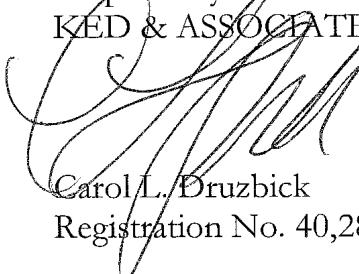
Serial No. **10/576,880**
Amdt. dated July 17, 2008
Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2008

Docket No. **P-0773**

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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